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*The Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) has a small staff with big hearts. William Reed shared this story and the staff photo below, in which he is standing on the far right.:*

*“During the 1998 Holiday Season, all of the Los Angeles District Office staff graciously participated in the donation of clothing, food and toys for individuals and families living in temporary housing facilities made available to them by a Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) agency. Shelter First, located in the downtown area of Los Angeles, has developed a program that provides lodging for the homeless in refurbished and well-maintained low-income hotel facilities for a period of one to nine months. Homeless individuals and families are qualified and referred to Shelter First by a network of churches and non-profit organizations, as well as community and government agencies. The occupants are from all ethnic backgrounds living together in a safe and friendly environment. The facilities are supported solely by corporate and private donations and grants. The referring agencies provide rehabilitative services such as job training and placement, food referrals, counseling, etc. The clean and secure emergency housing provided by Shelter First gives these interfacing agencies the opportunity to effectively work with their homeless clients to return them to mainstream society.*

*“Throughout the month of December, the LADO staff brought into the office their items for donation. Compliance Officer William Reed, coordinator of the gift-giving project, provided decorated gift boxes in the conference room in which to place the gifts. There was a wonderful accumulation of items collected, such things as a warm blanket, stuffed animals, a bag of potatoes, and a wool-lined denim jacket for a small child. The week before Christmas, William Reed, Warren Nelson, Sylvia Kim, Sonia Mejia and Maria Blume delivered all of the donated gifts to Charlene Gowers, Executive Director of the Shelter First facilities. Ms. Gowers and her staff gratefully accepted the donated items. A tour of one of the facilities was provided by Ms. Gowers and pictures were taken of the LADO volunteers and some of the folks located at the Shelter. The Shelter First staff then distributed the donated gifts to the men, women and children in time for Christmas Day. With a job well done, all of the LADO staff had a warm feeling of gratitude to be a part of the true meaning of the Holiday Season!”*

